



2007 Pain and Policy Report Card and Evaluation Guide

Grade Changes from 2006 to 2007

Arizona

Changed from B to B+ by replacing a previous medical board policy with the Federation of State Medical Board's "Model Guideline for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain."

California

Changed from C to B by repealing numerous restrictive or ambiguous provisions from laws.

Colorado

Changed from C+ to B by adopting a law that clarifies for practitioners that there is an important distinction between manslaughter and prescribing controlled substances for palliative care; this language identifies a clinical misperception that is pervasive in end-of-life care and attempts to lessen its impact on patient treatment and the professionals who provide it.

Connecticut

Changed from C+ to B by adopting a law that establishes a prescription monitoring program to prevent the improper or illegal use of controlled substances while not interfering with their legitimate medical use; to achieve this objective, the law also establishes a prescription drug monitoring working group that requires that prescription monitoring program information be reviewed by a working group member who is a pain management specialist.

Kansas

Changed from B+ to A by repealing its single remaining restrictive provision from the Medical Practice Act.

Massachusetts

Changed from B to B+ by adopting a law that establishes a palliative care program to ensure that pain and symptom management is an essential part of care for pediatric patients.

New Hampshire

Changed from C+ to B by adopting a law that establishes pain assessment as an essential part of patient care in residential healthcare facilities.

Wisconsin

Changed from B to A by adopting a medical board policy statement based on the Federation of State Medical Board's "Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain."

Report Card Highlights

California and Wisconsin had the greatest grade improvement.

- California's grade improved because of the repeal of numerous restrictions in law.
- Wisconsin's grade improved because the medical board adopted a positive pain management policy.

Kansas and Wisconsin now join Michigan and Virginia as having the most balanced policies in the nation.